

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 2391

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CA, XT, GW, EEC, NATO

SUBJECT: GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL EASES CANADIAN CONCERN
OVER EXCLUSION FROM YEAR OF EUROPE

SUMMARY: BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, CANADIAN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSING THEIR SATISFACTION WITH ASSURANCES THEY RECEIVED FROM WEST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER WALTER SCHEEL DURING HIS VISIT HERE, SEPTEMBER 27-30, THAT GERMANY WOULD SUPPORT CANADIAN EFFORTS NOT TO BE EXCLUDED FROM EITHER EC OR NATO ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE US INITIATIVE ON THE "YEAR OF EUROPE." SCHEEL'S VISIT CAPPED A WEEK OF DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS BY SECRETARY OF STATE MITCHELL SHARP WHICH BEGAN AT THE UN WITH MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND SEVERAL EUROPEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS TO ENSURE THAT CANADA WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE REVITALIZING OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP. END SUMMARY.

1. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH EXTAFF'S DIRECTORS GENERALS
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OF DEFENCE AND ARMS CONTROL (CAMERON) AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

(BLACK) AND DIRECTOR OF US AFFAIRS (MACLELLAN), POLITICAL COUNSELOR RECEIVED FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING CANADIAN VIEWS ON SCHEEL VISIT AND THE "YEAR OF EUROPE":

A. CANADA'S CONCERN THAT FUTURE TRADE AND POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE EC AND THE US MIGHT EXCLUDE CANADA WAS THE MAJOR ISSUE OF DISCUSSION IN LONG MEETINGS SCHEEL HAD WITH SHARP AND PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU ON SEPTEMBER 28. RESULT OF THESE MEETINGS WAS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE FROM SCHEEL TO SUPPORT POSSIBLE CANADA-EC DISCUSSIONS WHICH COULD LEAD TO SEPARATE CANADA-EC STATEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF PRESENT US-EC DISCUSSIONS. HOWEVER, THE TIMING AND SETTING OF SUCH A DECLARATION HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED MUCH LESS DECIDED.

B. SCHEEL TOLD THE CANADIANS THAT HE IS CONFIDENT THAT SATISFACTORY DECLARATIONS CAN BE DRAFTED AND AGREED UPON IN BOTH THE EC AND NATO. HE BELIEVES THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN THE FRENCH POSITION OF A YEAR AGO, WHEN FRENCH WERE BOTH NEGATIVE AND SKEPTICAL TO THE WHOLE PROJECT, TO THEIR PRESENT WILLINGNESS TO SIT DOWN AND TRY TO PRODUCE AGREED TEXTS. IT IS SCHEEL'S JUDGMENT THAT IF THE FRENCH ARE CONFRONTED WITH CONSENSUS POSITION ON "YEAR OF EUROPE", THEY WILL FINALLY COME AROUND IN ORDER TO AVOID ISOLATION.

C. IN THEIR MEETINGS AT THE UN AND WITH SCHEEL IN OTTAWA, THE CANADIANS STATED THEY RECOGNIZED THAT A GOOD DEAL OF THE SUBSTANCE OF ANY US-EC DECLARATION WOULD BE CONCERNED WITH ECONOMIC QUESTIONS WHICH WOULD NOT BE SUITABLE FOR A NATO DOCUMENT. SIMILARLY, CANADA RECOGNIZED THAT US AND CANADIAN RELATIONS WITH THE EC ARE NOT IDENTICAL IN ALL AREAS. THAT BEING SAID, IT IS UNACCEPTABLE TO CANADA THAT A US-EC DECLARATION BE ISSUED WITHOUT SOME MENTION OR PARALLEL ACCOMMODATION OF CANADIAN INTEREST. IT IS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT SHARP SOUGHT AND RECEIVED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO CONDUCT CANADA-EC DISCUSSIONS POSSIBLY LEADING TO A CANADA-EC DECLARATION.

D. URGENCY OF SHARP'S DIPLOMATIC TASK WAS UNDERScoreD WHEN HE FIRST LEARNED OF SUBSTANCE OF EC DRAFT WHILE READING NEW YORK TIMES AT BREAKFAST IN NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 24. (IN WORDS OF ONE POLITICAL OBSERVER "OTTAWA WAS ROCKED ON ITS CONFIDENTIAL

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DIPLOMATIC HEELS" WHEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DRAFT APPEARED IN THE PRESS WITH NO MENTION OF CANADA.)

E. BILATERALLY, CANADIANS AND GERMANS SIGNED LETTERS PROVIDING FOR FUTURE EXCHANGES ON SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL MATTERS. ACCORDING TO BLACK, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT BILATERAL ACCOMPLISHMENT WAS AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH REGULAR CONSULTATIONS AT ALL LEVELS WITH THE GERMANS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS

AS CANADA HAD PREVIOUSLY DONE WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH.

2. FOLLOWING HIS MEETINGS WITH TRUDEAU AND SHARP, SCHEEL WAS REPORTED BY PRESS AS STATING THAT IN HIS VIEW THE EC'S RELATIONS WITH CANADA "HAVE THE SAME RANK AND IMPORTANCE" AS THOSE WITH THE US. HE SAID RECENTLY PUBLISHED DRAFT DECLARATION ON RELATIONS WITH US WAS NOT MEANT TO EXCLUDE RELATIONS WITH CANADA OR OTHER COUNTRIES BUT WAS KEYED TO POSSIBLE VISIT TO EUROPE THIS YEAR BY PRESIDENT NIXON WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO DISCUSSIONS WITH CANADA IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. EARLIER, IN AN ADDRESS BEFORE THE EMPIRE CLUB IN TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 27, SCHEEL SAID "AT PRESENT, DELIBERATIONS ARE GOING ON WITHIN THE ALLIANCE ON THE REAFFIRMATION OF TRANS-ATLANTIC RELATIONS. WE CONSIDER THIS TO BE THE LOGICAL CONTINUATION OF THE CLOSE COOPERATION DESIRED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC. IN PARTICULAR WE SUPPORT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IN ITS EFFORTS TO INTENSIFY ITS RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY." STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF CANADA-GERMAN RELATIONS, SCHEEL SAID THAT "AFTER GREAT BRITAIN, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY IS CANADA'S MAIN TRADING PARTNER IN THE COMMON MARKET. GERMAN INVESTMENTS IN CANADA AT THE END OF 1972 WERE WORTH 2.1 BILLION MARKS, ALMOST EQUALLING OUR INVESTMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES."

4. WHILE THERE WAS GENERAL APPROBATION FOR THE APPARENT RESULTS OF SHARP'S MEETINGS WITH THE SECRETARY, SCHEEL AND OTHER FOREIGN MINISTERS, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN, IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED, "THE BLAME IS OURS," NOTED THAT SHARP HAS RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT CANADA WOULD BE INCLUDED IN ANY DEAL BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE US AND STATED "BUT THE INITIATIVE MUST COME FROM OTTAWA TO ENSURE THAT THE TERMS SAFEGUARD OUR VITAL INTERESTS." THE EDITORIAL SAID: "CANADA HAS REASON TO BE CONCERNED BUT

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NOT ALARMED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S PROPOSAL FOR A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES...SEVERAL EUROPEAN LEADERS HAVE VISITED THE US AND CONFERRED WITH NIXON. NIXON HIMSELF TRAVELLED TO ICELAND AND MET PRESIDENT GEORGES POMPIDOU. WHAT INITIATIVES DID CANADA TAKE DURING THIS PERIOD TO ENSURE THAT IT WAS KEPT INFORMED AND INCLUDED IN ANY PACKAGE DEAL BETWEEN THE COMMON MARKET AND NORTH AMERICA? HOW MANY EUROPEAN LEADERS DID WE INVITE? HOW MANY EUROPEAN COUNTRIES DID OUR LEADERS VISIT?"

SCHMIDT

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